

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 have been amended. Claims 12-18 have been added. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action maintains its rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,421,425 to Bossi et al. ("Bossi"). The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the rejection.

Although the Office has rejected these claims, the Examiner has indicated that more specific claim language could overcome the Bossi reference. The Applicant respectfully maintains his traversal of the rejection.

During a telephone conference with the Examiner on February 27, 2006, the undersigned and Examiner discussed the nature of the claim amendments in claims 1, 4 and 7. The undersigned believes the Examiner was agreeable to the type of amendments made in the claims. The Applicant believes that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the Bossi reference as the Bossi reference does not teach "the user computer [being] accessible by [the] first user and [the] second user, the first user and second user requiring an interpreter to facilitate communication with each other". The amendments to claims 4 and 7 are for clarification purposes only and have not been made for patentability reasons. As discussed with the Examiner, Bossi does not meet the language of claims 4 and 7, as Bossi does not include, *inter alia*, a "communication service provider [having] a predefined set of service criteria", "user-defined request criteria" (claim 4) or "user-selected service criteria" (claim 7). As independent claims 1, 4 and 7 are allowable, claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, which directly or indirectly, depend from these claims, are also allowable.

The Office further rejects claims 8-11 as being unpatentable over Bossi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,510,206 to Engelke et al. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses this rejection. In light of the amendments to independent claims 1, 4 and 7, claims 8-11 are allowable as they depend, directly or indirectly, from these independent claims. Claim 10 has been amended for clarification purposes only, and not for patentability reasons. In addition, the Bossi reference does not comprise "producing a recordation of the communication service" (claim 9), "digitally modifying for transmission on the computer network the image of at least

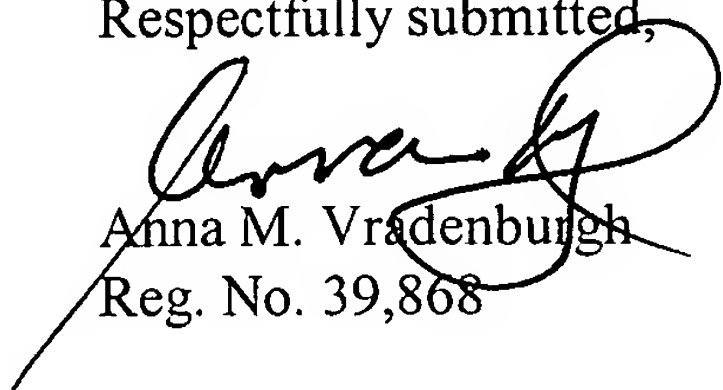
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one of the user and the communication service provider” (claim 10), or “transmitting the request for communication services to available communication services providers of the plurality of communication service providers” (claim 11).

Finally, claims 12-18 have been added. Claim 12 is substantially identical to claim 6, but has been written to provide more clarification of the claimed subject matter. Claims 13-17 are directed to the type of user computer or provider computer.

The Applicant contends that the claims are now in allowable form and respectfully request entry of these amendments and allowance of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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